

Center. Both organizations, as well as leading women athletes, support transgender inclusion in sports.

Major athletic bodies such as the International Olympic Committee and NCAA have guidelines for the participation of transgender athletes, and these bodies reject the type of systematic exclusion of transgender people from sports that anti-LGBTQ+ politicians are pushing.

This isn't about a real problem in this Nation. This is part of a larger coordinated attack against transgender people and the larger LGBTQ+ population. We have seen hundreds of anti-equality bills, many specifically targeting transgender people introduced in States across the country this year.

Unfortunately, this is about building the personal brand of some extreme rightwing politicians, people who fundraise from and appeal to a small subset of their political base, rather than about a real problem in this country.

These bullying politicians will endanger the lives of trans kids for their own political purposes, seemingly with the support of GOP leadership.

I guess we shouldn't be surprised. Not one Republican in leadership called out the comments last week by a conservative speaker at the CPAC conference who called for the eradication of transgender people.

This isn't about sports. This is about attacking trans and LGBTQ+ kids and the extreme MAGA politics of that issue, not the substance of just letting kids play. That is heartless and cruel.

We will fight these attacks hard. We will call out this dangerous demagoguery, and we will make sure the public sees it for what it is—raw, swampy politics, as usual, of the worst kind.

There will be few pages assigned to future chapters of "Profiles in Courage" for the politicians that bully kids for their own gain. This week, that is exactly what we saw from the majority party in Congress, and we will expose this opportunistic bullying.

NO AMERICAN IS SAFE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. STRONG) for 5 minutes.

Mr. STRONG. Madam Speaker, I rise because no American is safe.

The United States Secretary of Homeland Security says that the American border is secure. The American people know better.

It is for these reasons I traveled to our southern border with several of my colleagues from the Committee on Homeland Security. Two adults attempted to climb the U.S. border fence the day we got there. They fell and were critically injured. American taxpayers are paying the bill.

Hospitals are inundated with non-U.S. citizens. They are not paying a dime for care.

Schools and teachers are attempting to teach students that are here unlaw-

fully. Many don't speak English, and they are delaying the education of those who do.

Illegal aliens attacked a Border Patrol agent while we were there. They are trying to kill American law enforcement agents. Under this administration, these agents in many cases are instructed to respond by firing pepper balls.

Some schools are placed on lockdown 4 to 10 times a week because Border Patrol agents are chasing drug dealers and human smugglers that have crossed the border and entered their elementary and middle school campuses.

Cartel members are recruiting 11- to 14-year-old children to drive vehicles to smuggle illegal aliens through multiple States and counties.

Practically everyone crossing illegally claims asylum. Think about it, they are coming from Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador, Colombia, Haiti, Cuba, El Salvador, Iran, and, yes, they are coming from China, too. They are flying, in many cases, to the southern border to cross illegally.

Our meeting at the border port of entry had to be delayed because a mule tried to smuggle 70 pounds of cocaine right in front of 12 United States Congressmen.

The American people are being told by the Secretary of Homeland Security that our borders are secure. There is nothing further from the truth. While heroin, fentanyl, cocaine, marijuana, and human smuggling are flowing into our country at alarming rates, America is under attack.

The same laws in effect today were in effect when Donald Trump was President of the United States of America. You can talk about him all you want, but tell the facts. He sent them back and protected America.

Two weeks ago, President Trump's Border Patrol chief, Rodney Scott, gave us a brief. He said the problem is not with the laws; the problem is with this administration because they are not enforcing the laws that are already on the books. It is time to return these that are invading our country at the southern border to the country of their origin immediately.

On average, 300 United States men, women, and children are dying every day by overdose. EMTs, paramedics, nurses, doctors, and emergency rooms see it every day. America is under attack.

On our visit to the border, we met with Texas National Guard, United States Homeland Security, Border Patrol, Customs and Immigration, Homeland Security Investigations, and the Texas State Troopers.

Not one of these agencies or officials we met with could say that the U.S. border was secure. Not one.

Drug overdoses are a common occurrence in every county and city in America. This threat to America does not discriminate; rich, poor, Black, White. This is not a Democratic issue, nor is it a Republican issue. It is an

American issue. Our country is under attack.

No American is safe, and the American people deserve better.

During our trip, I was reminded that on his first day in office, the President terminated the emergency declaration at the southern border and halted border wall construction.

Over the last 2 years, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol have encountered over 4.7 million illegal immigrants trying to enter our country. That does not include the 1.2 million that have evaded Border Patrol. Yet, the administration tells the American people that the border is under control.

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If our border is secure, then why over the last 2 years has the administration continued to send troops to our border? That alone signals to every American that we have a problem.

Why are they stopping border wall construction, which is an important first step in securing our border? I will introduce legislation to address this question.

My bill will resume border wall construction and ensure the President cannot withhold resources while sending our troops to the front line. Our country is under attack.

I am proud to introduce this legislation and other measures to ensure that if the administration expects our troops to defend our border, then we expect the administration to provide every tool, resource, and means of support to each of our brave men and women protecting our homeland security.

My fellow Americans, our country is under attack.

HONORING KEITH ABOUCHAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today, as I have in the past, on this floor for Republican staffers and Democratic staffers to thank them, to thank them for their service to the House of Representatives, for their service to the Congress of the United States, and for their service to individual Members and to leadership.

I do so again today for my friend who was with me for approximately a quarter of a century, Dr. Keith Abouchar. He has long served as my senior policy adviser on everything from oversight and financial services to congressional ethics and campaign finance.

After working with me for a few years as a professional staff member of the House Oversight Committee and the Committee on House Administration, he joined my leadership staff in 2003.

He recently retired at the beginning of this year from Federal service after serving this institution, as I said, for more than a quarter of a century.

Keith Abouchar, Dr. Abouchar, accomplished much in that time. He